

Serial No.: 09/392,106

IN THE DRAWINGS:

Please approve the accompanying Request for Approval of Drawing Changes.

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend claims 1 and 15 to read as follows. Copies of these amended claims, marked to show changes from their prior versions are set forth in Appendix B attached hereto.

- B7
1. (Twice Amended) A method for predicting a value of a target variable based on predictions of other variables, said method comprising:
 - obtaining historical values for the target variable at each of plural time points;
 - obtaining previously predicted values and currently predicted values for each of plural predictor variables, the plural predictor variables being different from the target variable;
 - assigning values to parameters of a forecasting model to obtain a best fit of the previously predicted values for the plural predictor variables to the historical values for the target variable; and

B7
Cont

utilizing a computing device to generate a predicted value for the target variable from the currently predicted values for at least a subset of the plural predictor variables using the forecasting model and the values assigned to the parameters of the forecasting model.

B8

15. (Twice Amended) A method for predicting a value of a target variable based on predictions of other variables, said method comprising:

- obtaining historical values for the target variable at each of plural time points;
- obtaining previously predicted values and currently predicted values for each of plural predictor variables, the plural predictor variables being different from the target variable;
- identifying a subset of the plural predictor variables whose previously predicted values provide a best fit to the historical values for the target variable, by using stepwise linear regression; and
- utilizing a computing device to generate a predicted value for the target variable from the currently predicted values for the subset of the plural predictor variables identified in said identifying step using weighting coefficients obtained from the stepwise linear regression.